

★ ★ NCIC 2000 ★ ★

Linking It All Together

About This Newsletter

This newsletter is published quarterly to inform NCIC users of the status of NCIC 2000. It is our hope that this will keep all interested parties abreast of changes and developments so that you, the user, can begin, and continue to make, any necessary purchases and modifications to your systems. If your agency would like more information on any of these topics, please contact Mr. Roy Weise at 1-304-625-2730.

Please Note

Because criminal justice agencies throughout the Nation will be affected by the NCIC 2000 development, much information about the system is available from many sources, especially the Internet and World Wide Web. However, some of this information may be erroneous or outdated. Users should take great care to confirm any information they receive about NCIC 2000 with their State Control Terminal Agency (CTA) or Federal

Service Coordinator (FSC). Local users should check with their CTAs prior to acquiring any equipment, software, or services designed to access NCIC 2000.

Project Status Update

Criminal Justice Information Service (CJIS) Advisory Policy Board (APB) Meeting June 16-17 in Boston, Massachusetts

The FBI briefed the Board on the status of the NCIC 2000 project and received a favorable response on the progress made to date. The APB made a number of decisions concerning NCIC 2000, most of which will be put in place after Initial Operating Capability (IOC) in July 1999.

Two key areas about NCIC 2000 were discussed:

- *NCIC 2000 Communications Protocol Options:* Under a recent contract modification, Harris will study the effort and cost involved in adding options to the NCIC 2000 TCP/IP protocol. Users have indicated that they would prefer options other than TCP/IP over X.25. Harris' study will include adding TCP/IP over the

point-to-point protocol (PPP), Ethernet, and additional options. This will allow users ready to communicate with NCIC 2000 over additional protocol choices. This study has recently concluded. The FBI will report the results at the September Working Group meetings.

- *Year 2000 Readiness:* NCIC 2000 will support eight digit date fields in the Federal standard format (YYYYMMDD). CTAs and FSCs must be able to send and accept dates in this format to fully participate in the Site Operational Test (SOT). In response to a recommendation from the Board, the CJIS Division sent a letter to all CTAs and FSCs asking them to determine their readiness for SOT and respond in writing. The CJIS, Systems Transition Unit will provide CTAs and FSCs with information about EIC and SOT.

Factory Operational Testing (FOT)

FOT completed on June 26, 1998. The table on the following page illustrates the FOT participants and the NCIC 2000 communications protocol they used. The testing went well. Highlights included New York and Florida exchanging information using NCIC 2000, New Jersey using the NCIC 2000 workstation software, and the system handling nearly 600,000 transactions from TECS in a volume test. Users that participated in FOT will have a head start toward getting ready to begin EIC, which begins in November 1998, and SOT, which begins in January 1999. Both tests will run continuously through March 1999. However, we do not expect to have the TCP/IP options available for EIC and SOT until February 1999. All CTA's and FSC's must participate in these tests.

FOT Participant	Date Testing Completed	Communications Protocol
New York CTA	March 26, 1998	Bisync
Florida CTA	April 9, 1998	TCP/IP over X.25
National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS)	May 4, 1998	Bisync
Washington, DC Metropolitan Police CTA	May 14, 1998	Bisync
Identification Division Automated System/Interstate Identification Index (IDAS/III)	May 21, 1998	Bisync
Missouri CTA	June 1, 1998	Bisync
New Jersey CTA	June 8, 1998	TCP/IP over X.25
Texas CTA	June 15, 1998	SNA
Washington (State) CTA	June 15, 1998	Bisync
Canadian Police Information Centre	June 26, 1998	Bisync
Treasury Enforcement Communications System	June 26, 1998	Bisync

Application Software Development

Harris Corporation (Harris) has completed all software development and testing for the system's software applications. The fifth system integration test was successfully completed in July 1998. SIT #5 tested the interoperability of all software applications that will be part of the system at IOC in July 1999. As part of the system acceptance process, another integration test will be run at system Factory Acceptance Test (FAT). FAT is scheduled to take place this August.

Installation of NCIC 2000 in Clarksburg, West Virginia

After FAT is completed, the NCIC 2000 system will be moved from its current location at Harris' site in Melbourne, Florida to the FBI's CJIS Division facility in Clarksburg, West Virginia. By November 1998, the system will be up and running in the CJIS Division facility; ready to begin testing communication interfaces with NCIC 2000 users.

Fingerprint Matching Subsystem (FMS) Alpha and Beta Testing

The FBI has loaded over 250,000 right index fingerprint images into the FMS since taking

delivery of the equipment and software in December 1997. The FBI conducted several tests to determine the system's fingerprint matching accuracy and the impact on accuracy when the database size increases. The system's required capacity is 254,000 prints. The FBI conducted all testing at FBI Headquarters Computer Center in Washington, D.C.

The results of the testing have been excellent, maintaining the accuracy Harris achieved in its testing. Accuracy rates have been above the 90% level that the CJIS Advisory Policy Board said must be met at its December 1996 meeting. Testing included using fingerprints that were compressed with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) approved algorithm (WSQ) that the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) is using. The right index finger of these prints was decompressed using a commercial product, then stored using the NCIC 2000 algorithm. Accuracy was not degraded using the IAFIS prints.

Beta testing is scheduled to start this September with participants from Texas and New Jersey. California may also participate. The objectives of the Beta Test are to:

- (1) Test the end-to-end performance of the NCIC 2000 FMS.
- (2) Obtain user feedback on the performance of the FMS.
- (3) Provide information on the test's outcome to the NCIC 2000 user community.

Wireless Applications Testing Program:

This effort is being spearheaded by the CJIS, Systems Transition Unit with support and funding from the Public Safety Wireless Information Network (PSWIN). CJIS sent a Request for Information (RFI) to the public regarding wireless communications requirements and received responses from 17 companies. CJIS has held meetings with all the vendors that responded to the RFI and is planning its next steps. This dialogue is intended to stimulate industry to produce products that can support criminal justice agencies' emerging wireless communications requirements.

The first tests are scheduled to begin this summer with the Alexandria, Virginia, Henrico County, Virginia, and Sun Prairie, Wisconsin Police Departments (PD's). After these tests are completed, the North Carolina Highway Patrol (NCHP) will participate using its wireless network. NCIC 2000 equipment and software to support the tests have been provided to Alexandria and Henrico County, Virginia PD's, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin PD's, and NCHP. The CTAs from Virginia, Wisconsin, and North Carolina will also participate in the testing. The FBI, through the CJIS STU, will provide the RFI responses and results of the tests to the law

enforcement community.

STATE YOUR OPINION

This space is provided for authorized criminal justice agencies to provide commentary, questions, or suggestions. We will provide an answer to all questions. If you would like to comment or submit an article, please send it to:

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